Amendments to the Claims

The claim amendments follow, in full text, consisting of newly added claims 30-40. A complete list of all the presently pending claims in the application is provided in the appendix, with suitable headings to show the status of each claim.

Please add claims 30-40 as follows:

30. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system for placement in a concrete floor, comprising:

first and second raceway panels disposed adjacent to one another in the concrete floor;

a first housing secured to the first raceway panel and a second housing secured to the second raceway panel; and

at least one clip engageable with the first and second housings to secure the first and second housings to one another.

31. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution assembly as set forth in claim 30, wherein the first and second housings comprise preset housings that are secured to the raceway panels prior to pouring of the concrete floor.

32. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution assembly as set forth in claim 30, wherein the first and second housings comprise afterset housings that are configured for connection to a respective one of the raceway panels after the concrete floor has hardened by removing the concrete from above the respective raceway panels, forming

an opening in the raceway panel, and securing the housing to the raceway panel at a location that overlies the opening in the raceway panel.

33. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system for placement in a concrete floor, comprising:

a raceway panel defining an interior passage for carrying service cables;

a housing securable to the raceway panel, the housing defining an interior compartment and including an opening alignable with a reciprocal opening in the raceway panel to allow wires to pass between the raceway panel and the interior compartment of the housing; and

a plurality of wire retention clips mounted around the perimeter of the opening of the housing for storing wiring that has been routed into the housing through the opening.

34. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the retention clips are configured to mate with reciprocal mounting brackets formed in the interior compartment of the housing.

35. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the retention clips are generally U-shaped.

36. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the retention clips are formed of a non-conductive material.

37. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 36, wherein the wire retention clips are formed of nylon.

38. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the wire retention clips are formed separately from the housing.

39. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the wire retention clips are formed separately from the housing and are adapted to snap into place into reciprocal mounting brackets formed in the interior of the housing.

40. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system as set forth in claim 33, wherein the opening in the raceway panel is formed in a top wall of the raceway panel and the opening in the housing is formed in a bottom wall of the housing.

Amendments to the Claims

The claim amendments follow, in full text, consisting of newly added claims 41-79. A complete list of all the presently pending claims in the application is provided in the appendix, with suitable headings to show the status of each claim.

Please add claims 41- 79 as follows:

41. (New) A housing for providing access to an underfloor electrical distribution system of the type comprising at least one raceway panel embedded in a concrete floor, the housing comprising:

a generally rectangular body having four corners and a top opening; and

a housing interconnector located proximate each of said four corners of said generally rectangular body, wherein said housing interconnector is configured to be engaged by an alignment device that is adapted to interconnect said housing to another housing.

42. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein said housing interconnector is a tab extending outwardly from said generally rectangular body, and wherein said alignment device is an alignment clip comprising an upper portion integrally formed with legs extending downwardly from said upper portion, wherein said legs are configured to engage around said tab.

43. (New) The housing of claim 42, wherein said alignment clip further comprises teeth formed on lower edges of said legs, wherein said teeth are configured to engage against top edges of said tab as said alignment clip is driven downwardly toward said tab, and wherein said teeth are configured to abrade said tab with continued downward pressure.

44. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein said alignment device is configured to slidably engage said housing interconnector

45. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein said alignment device is configured to snapably engage said housing interconnector.

46. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein the housing is formed of a die cast metal, and wherein said alignment clip is formed of a metal that is relatively harder than said die cast metal.

47. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein the housing is formed from plastic.

48. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein the housing is one of a preset housing and an afterset housing.

49. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein the housing is a preset housing having an interior compartment generally defined by a bottom wall and a sidewall, the preset housing being normally adapted for connection to a raceway panel prior to pouring of the concrete floor.

50. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein the housing is configured to receive and retain an activation assembly through said top opening.

51. (New) The housing of claim 50, wherein the activation assembly is a flush mount duplex electrical outlet.

52. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein said generally rectangular body comprises a locking tab extending from a bottom surface of said generally rectangular body, wherein said locking tab is configured to slidably engage a reciprocal aperture formed in a raceway panel.

53. (New) The housing of claim 41, wherein said housing interconnector is integrally formed with said generally rectangular body.

54. (New) An assembly for providing access to an underfloor electrical distribution system of the type comprising a plurality of raceway panels embedded in a concrete floor, the assembly comprising:

first and second rectangular housings, each of said first and second rectangular housings comprising:

four upright walls integrally formed with a bottom wall defining a top opening therebetween and four corners; and

housing interconnectors, wherein at least one of said housing interconnectors is located proximate one of said four corners such that at least one of said housing interconnectors is located proximate each of said four corners, and

an alignment device that securably engages one of said housing interconnectors of said first rectangular housing and another of said housing interconnectors of said second said rectangular housing to gang said first and second rectangular housings together.

55. (New) The assembly of claim 54, further comprising additional rectangular housings ganged at least one of together and with said first and second rectangular housings.

56. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein each of said plurality of housing interconnectors is an outwardly-extending tab, and wherein said alignment device is an alignment clip comprising an upper portion integrally formed with legs extending downwardly from said upper portion defining slots therebetween, wherein said legs are configured to engage around said tab.

57. (New) The assembly of claim 56, wherein said alignment clip further comprises teeth formed on lower edges of said legs, wherein said teeth are configured to engage against top edges of said tab as said alignment clip is driven downwardly toward said tab, and wherein said teeth are configured to abrade said tab with continued downward pressure.

58. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein said alignment device is configured to slidably engage said housing interconnectors

59. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein said first and second housings are formed of a die cast metal, and wherein said alignment clip is formed of a metal that is relatively harder than said die cast metal.

60. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein said first and second housings are formed from plastic.

61. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein each of said first and second housings is one of a preset housing and an afterset housing.

62. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein at least one of said first and second housings is a preset housing having an interior compartment generally defined by a bottom wall and a sidewall, the preset housing being normally adapted for connection to a raceway panel prior to pouring of the concrete floor.

63. (New) The assembly of claim 54, further comprising an activation assembly secured within each of said first and second housings.

64. (New) The assembly of claim 64, wherein said activation assembly is a flush mount duplex electrical outlet.

65. (New) The assembly of claim 54, wherein each of said first and second housings further comprise a locking tab downwardly extending from said bottom wall, wherein said locking tab is configured to slidably engage a reciprocal aperture formed in a raceway panel.

66. (New) An underfloor electrical distribution system for placement in a concrete floor, comprising:

first and second raceway panels disposed adjacent to one another in the concrete floor;

a first housing secured to said first raceway panel and a second housing secured to said second raceway panel, wherein each of said first and second housings comprises:

four upright walls integrally formed with a bottom wall defining a top opening therebetween and first, second, third and fourth corners; and

first, second, third and fourth housing interconnectors, wherein said first, second, third and fourth housing interconnectors are located proximate said first, second, third and fourth corners, respectively, and

an alignment device that securably engages one of said housing interconnectors of said first housing and another of said housing interconnectors of said second housing to gang said first and second housings together.

67. (New) The system of claim 66, further comprising additional housings ganged at least one of together and with said first and second rectangular housings.

68. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein each of said first, second, third and fourth housing interconnectors is a tab outwardly extending proximate said first, second, third and fourth corners, respectively, and wherein said alignment device is an alignment clip comprising an upper portion integrally formed with legs extending downwardly from said upper portion defining slots therebetween, wherein said legs are configured to engage around said tab.

69. (New) The system of claim 68, wherein said alignment clip further comprises teeth formed on lower edges of said legs, wherein said teeth are configured to engage against top edges of said tab as said alignment clip is driven downwardly toward

said tab, and wherein said teeth are configured to abrade said tab with continued downward pressure.

70. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said alignment device is configured to slidably engage said housing interconnectors

71. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said alignment device is configured to snapably engage said housing interconnectors.

72. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said first and second housings are formed of a die cast metal, and wherein said alignment clip is formed of a metal that is relatively harder than said die cast metal.

73. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said first and second housings are formed from plastic.

74. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein each of said first and second housings is one of a preset housing and an afterset housing.

75. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein at least one of said first and second housings is a preset housing having an interior compartment generally defined by a bottom wall and a sidewall, the preset housing being normally adapted for connection to a raceway panel prior to pouring of the concrete floor.

76. (New) The system of claim 66, further comprising an activation assembly secured within each of said first and second housings.

77. (New) The system of claim 76, wherein said activation assembly is a flush mount duplex electrical outlet.

78. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein said first and second raceway panels further comprise first and second reciprocal apertures, respectively, and said first and second housings further comprise first and second locking tabs, respectively, said first and second locking tabs extend downwardly from said bottom walls of said first and second housings, respectively, wherein said first and second locking tabs are configured to slidably engage said first and second reciprocal apertures, respectively.